

FITCHBURG PUBLIC LIBRARY
BOARD OF TRUSTEES
MINUTES
March 8, 2023

Fitchburg Public Library
610 Main Street, Fitchburg, MA

Trustees present were: Chair Matthew Bruun, Sabrina Holley-Williams, Mary Rice Hurley, Joanne Huse, Cynthia Jones, and Jim Walsh. Also present were Director Deb Hinkle and Assistant Director Jean Tenander.

PUBLIC COMMENT

There was no public comment.

CALL TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:31 p.m.

APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES OF February 8, 2023.

The minutes of the February 8, 2023 meeting were approved.

CHAIR'S REPORT

Chair Bruun said his report would be included in the discussion under the Building Committee report.

LIBRARIAN'S REPORT

There was a discussion of the disposition of the chairs currently in use in the Ethnic Heritage Room. Although they are theoretically worth something as an example of work by the Finnish-American architect and designer Eero Saarinen, it is unclear how much their current condition would be reflected in a selling price. It was decided to take the chairs to our temporary space and make a decision later about what to do with them.

Director Hinkle has applied for several federal grants. She also met with Sen. Cronin and Sharon Bernard to discuss grant opportunities.

She and Ashley also met with staff members of the Fitchburg State University Library to discuss collaborative efforts and the sharing of data bases.

Director Hinkle said our Friends of the Library are working to expand their membership significantly to have a serious effect on our future fund raising efforts.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Finance Committee-

Jim Hohman reported to the Finance Committee that figures were trending upwards.

Building Committee-

Director Hinkle said we were hoping to use the City's on call contractors to ready the temporary space for us, but that process yielded insufficient bids. We are asking for the most minimal work possible. The bid was reposted for the public. If appropriate bids come in, we should be able to move in at the end of April; however, we will not assign a date until construction begins.

A bid will also have to be put out for storage space for material we will not be moving to the temporary space. This material will not be accessible during our stay at the temporary space.

Director Hinkle said she had met with Mayor DiNatale and the city auditor and that they had no concerns about next year's operating budget. Mayor will present our budget to the City Council.

The meeting then welcomed Rob Favini, co-chair of the Building Steering Committee. He provided an update to the Trustees on the capital campaign process and presented a slide show of some of the most recent publicity materials including a brochure stressing the continuity of the Library's presence in the City.

There was also detailed presentation of the floor plans for the renovated library delivered by Director Hinkle.

NEW BUSINESS

There was no New Business.

OLD BUSINESS

There was no Old Business

ADJOURNMENT

The meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.

Respectfully submitted
by Jean Tenander
for Cynthia Jones